

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus arranged to connect, via a network, to a plurality of external services, each of which provides a service for processing image data generated in the image reading apparatus, the image reading apparatus comprising:

an image reading unit configured to read an image on an original document and generate digital image data corresponding to the read image;

an identification unit configured to identify an operator of the image reading apparatus;

an acquiring unit configured to acquire personalized service information which is associated with an ID of the identified operator ~~and includes, the personalized service information including plural items of~~ setting information for each of the plurality of external services;

a personalizing unit configured to personalize a setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of settings according to the acquired personalized service information; and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit various settings which have been set based on the setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of the settings personalized by said personalizing unit, together with the generated digital image data via the network to one of the plurality of external services which is selected by the identified operator.

2. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim

1, further comprising:

a reading unit configured to read operator identification information and the personalized service information corresponding to the operator from a detachable storage medium connected with the reading unit,

wherein said identification unit identifies the operator according to the operator identification information read from the storage medium.

3. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim

1, further comprising:

a wireless communication unit configured to wirelessly communicate with a storage medium capable of carrying out wireless communication, the storage medium storing operator identification information and the personalized service information corresponding to the operator,

wherein said identification unit identifies the operator according to the operator identification information stored in the storage medium.

4. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim

1, wherein an external server holding the personalized service information associated with respective operator identification information is connected to the network, and said acquiring unit transmits operator identification information of the operator identified by the identification unit to the external server via the network, and acquires the personalized

service information corresponding to the transmitted operator identification information from the external server.

5. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an external server holding personalized service information associated with respective operator identification information and respective apparatus identification information is connected to the network, and said acquiring unit transmits operator identification information of the operator identified by the identification unit and apparatus identification information of the image reading apparatus to the external server via the network, and acquires the personalized service information corresponding to the transmitted operator identification information and the apparatus identification information from the external server.

6. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of external services exist on the Internet, and the external server exists on an intranet.

7. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on services to be used by the operator, and defaults of various settings for the services to be used.

8. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on the

external services to be used by the identified operator, and setting values which can be set by the identified operator for the services to be used.

9. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on the external services to be used by the identified operator, and setting values inhibited from being used for the services to be used.

10. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes identification information on the external services to be used by the identified operator, and setting values which can be used by the identified operator for the services to be used.

11. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes identification information to be used by the identified operator, and setting items inhibited from being used for the services to be used.

12. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the external service is inhibited from being used when said personalizing unit omits personalization of the service to be used.

13. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the external service provides a print and book-binding service for the transmitted generated digital image data, and said transmitting unit transmits, as the various settings for the external service, settings relating to print format and book-binding format for the print and book-binding service.

14. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the external service comprises a print and book-binding service for the transmitted generated digital image data, and said transmitting unit transmits, as the various settings for the external service, settings relating to an address for delivery of a printout obtained by the print and book-binding service.

15. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the personalized service information includes information indicative of an address of the identified operator as the address for delivery.

16. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the personalized service information includes information indicative of the identified operator as a person to be charged for the service.

17. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the personalized service information includes part of authentication data to be used for user authentication when the operator uses the service.

18. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said acquiring unit acquires plural pieces of personalized service information, and said personalizing unit comprises selecting means for selecting a desired service from among services personalized for the identified operator according to the acquired plural pieces of personalized service information.

19. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising an adding unit configured to add various settings as to the service personalized for the identified operator according to the acquired personalized service information as new personalized service information to the acquired personalized service information.

20. (Currently Amended) A personalizing method for an image reading apparatus arranged to connect, via a network, to a plurality of external services, each of which provides a service for processing image data generated in the image reading apparatus, the personalizing method comprising:

an image reading step of reading an image on an original document and generating digital image data corresponding to the read image;

an identification step of identifying an operator of the image reading apparatus;

an acquiring step of acquiring personalized service information which is associated with an ID of the identified operator and includes the personalized service

information including plural items of setting information for each of the plurality of external services;

a personalizing step of personalizing a setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of settings according to the acquired personalized service information; and

a transmitting step of transmitting various settings which have been set based on the setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of the settings personalized according to the acquired personalized service information acquired in said personalizing step, together with the generated digital image data via the network to one of the plurality of external services which is selected by the identified operator.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program for controlling an image reading apparatus arranged to connect, via a network, to a plurality of external services, each of which provides a service for processing image data generated in the image reading apparatus, the computer program comprising program codes for performing:

an image reading step of reading an image on an original document and generating digital image data corresponding to the read image;

an identification step of identifying an operator of the image reading apparatus;

an acquiring step of acquiring personalized service information which is associated with an ID of the identified operator and includes, the personalized service

information including plural items of setting information for each of the plurality of external services;

a personalizing step of personalizing a setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of settings according to the acquired personalized service information; and

a transmitting step of transmitting various settings which have been set based on the setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of the settings personalized in said personalizing step, together with the generated digital image data via the network to one of the plurality of external service selected by the identified operator.